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Message Text

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72
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /115 W
---------- 126613
R 221622Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0569
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, GR, UK
SUBJECT: PAPANDREOU'S LONDON PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: ATHENS 3026

1. RELATIVELY LITTLE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON ANDREAS PAPANDREOU NEWS CONFERENCE HELD HERE MONDAY AFTERNOON MAY 20 AS NONE OF LONDON DAILIES CARRIED ANY COVERAGE.

2. GUARDIAN DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT PATRICK KEATLEY CALLED PRESS ATTACHE MONDAY EVENING TO GET EMBASSY VIEW OF PAPANDREOU CHARGE THAT U.S. PROVIDING GOG 1,500 RPT 1,500 TANKS OF WHICH 700 ALREADY ABOARD SHIP ON WAY TO GREECE WITH REMAINING 800 TO LEAVE SHORTLY. PRESS ATTACHE, AFTER CHECKING WITH EUR/GRK IN DEPT, GAVE GUARDIAN NEWS EDITOR FOLLOWING COMMENT ATTRIBUTABLE TO EMBASSY SPOKESMAN: "MR. PAPANDREOU IS OBVIOUSLY MIS-INFORMED. ALL MILITARY GRANT AID TO GREECE WAS TERMIN ATED AS OF JANUARY 1, 1973. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON ANY SUCH TRANSFERS OF TANKS AS MR' FAPANDREOU HAS CLAIMED." GUARDIAN PUBLISHED NEITHER STORY NOR SPOKES-MAN'S COMMENT.

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3. KEATLEY, IN REQUESTING EMBASSY COMMENT, ALSO REPORTED

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THAT PAPANDREOU HAD REPEATED MANY PREVIOUS CHARGES AGAINST GREEK REGIME WHICH HE ACCUSED OF BEING PUPPETS OF THE PENTAGON. ALSO THAT PREMIER ANDROUTSOPOULOS HAD BEEN INSTALLED AS RESULT OF DIRECT INTERVENTION OF CIA AND THAT USG WAS CONTINUING TO BOLSTER GREEK REGIME IN VARIOUS WAYS.

4. AGAIN REPEAT WE CANNOT CHECK ACCURACY ABOVE REPORTING AS NO STORIES ON NEWS CONFERENCE HAVE SO FAR SURFACED. KEATLEY IS GENERALLY REGARDED AS RELIABLE IF NOT ALWAYS FRIENDLY REPORTER, ALTHOUGH WE GIVE HIM GOOD MARKS AT LEAST FOR CHECKING WITH US ON ACCURACY OF PAPANDREOU'S OUTLANDISH CLAIMS. NO OTHER MEDIA REP HAS DONE SO. THIS MAY SIMPLY REFLECT LACK OF CREDIBILITY OF PAPANDREOU'S STATEMENTS.

SOHM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 22 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
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To: STATE
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